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The Independent, V. 29, Thursday, August 27, 1903, [Whole Number: 1469]

The Independent

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THE INDEPENDENT

Published Every Thursday.

COLLEGEVILLE, MONTG. CO., PA.

E. S. MOSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1903.

LORD SALISBURY, thrice Prime Minister in England, died in London Saturday night.

THE American boat, Reliance, and the English boat, Shamrock, sailed their second race Tuesday in the vicinity of New York. The race was over a thirty-mile triangular course, and Reliance won by one minute.

EDITOR SAYLOR, of the Pottstown Blade, gives the rope a twist, a turn, and then another twist, and exclaims: "Cut the rope if this knot isn't easy." Editor Saylor is both kind and thoughtful. He is built that way.

WHENEVER a Democratic candidate for the Presidency is announced with any degree of prominence, Mr. Bryan sets up a dismal howl in his newspaper, the Commoner. If listened to long enough, he will talk and write the Democratic party to death.

THE Grand Army of the Republic in the encampment at San Francisco, last week, elected General John C. Black, of Illinois, Commander-in-Chief, and named Boston as the place in which the encampment of 1904 will be held. The retiring Commander-in-Chief, General Thomas A. Stewart, of this county, delivered an eloquent address.

RECENTLY a rumor has been extant to the effect that our Congressman Wanger is to receive the Republican nomination for Judge in Bucks county. We hardly believe Mr. Wanger will accept the nomination, if it is tendered him. He is not likely to be hoodwinked by a temptation based upon political uncertainty. However, ambition does not always reckon in advance upon the ultimate cost of a contest for a coveted honor.

WITH corruption unearthed in the Post Office Department at Washington, the Indian office is to receive some special and very much needed attention. It was recently affirmed in court that out of the three millions of acres of land belonging to one tribe, the Creeks, two millions have been illegally taken possession of by white men. This is evidence of wholesale rascality. If the affirmation is correct, the affairs of the Indian Office must be in a deplorable condition. Should the President and his assistants succeed in "turning the rascals out" of occupations in official circles at Washington, they will be entitled to the lasting gratitude of all who esteem righteousness to be far above iniquity, in public as well as in private life.

WITHIN the past week there has been another spell of unusual excitement in Pottstown. A little while ago it was Carrie Cannon who shook the earth in that quarter, and last week several players on the Pottstown base ball team were bribed to "throw" the game with a Phoenixville nine. Then the anathemas of righteous indignation were showered about in great profusion. If we mistake not, a series of games were being played by the Pottstown and Phoenixville teams to determine which should scoop one thousand dollars. That was playing for a wager and was a form of gambling, was it not? If so, the miserable wretches who "threw" the game were only the more despicable gamblers as compared with the multitude who encouraged the milder form of gambling and the gamblers who participated. To the outside world it would seem that Pottstown needs a little evangelization all around, and Phoenixville, too.

THE North Wales Record says: "It is made manifest that real estate in this locality is held by a very precarious tenure. Investigators have discovered that the Atlantic coast is sinking quite rapidly and it is only a matter of a few million years when North Wales will be the habitation for clams, soft shell crabs and porpoises." This prophecy, if fulfilled at all, may be proven correct within the next century or within a thousand years at most. The sudden sinking of a considerable portion, or the whole, of the Atlantic coast is not to be regarded as a geological impossibility, though it is to be taken for granted that the period of cataclysmic action in the life history of the earth is about at an end, and that as a rule upheavals and subsidences are effected slowly and imperceptibly. In a "few million years," Brother Johnson, there will be much more dry land on the face of the earth than now; and the probabilities are that if North Wales remains on the map in that far off time, its inhabitants will be subsisting on condensed food elements carried about with them in the form of pellets; they will be devoting considerable time in receiving messages from and exchanging notes with the inhabitants of some other planet; and so on; if, if the human animal exists at all upon the face of the earth a "few million years" hence.

OUR estimable fellow journalist, of the Central News, of Perkaskie, reminds us somewhat forcibly of the man who, having imbibed too much tanglefoot, was entirely convinced that he was sober; that a friend who happened to be within his range of vision was tipsy. When editor Meredith imagined that he had the scribe "passionate," he may have had some such feeling himself. Although we hardly think he had. Buoyant with anticipations of the intensive sort, with his Bryanian countenance illuminated by sweet and tender yet potent emotional influences, we can scarcely believe that he should become "passionate" while discussing a mooted question, even though it involved complex factors. We, therefore, give him the benefit of all doubt, and beseech him to postpone further elucidation of the negro question, which he seems to have admirably solved to his entire satisfaction, until cooler weather; until, say October; after it is all over—when the lines of least resistance within his shapely cranium will be no longer crossed by the force of blissful expectations. Come to think about it, we can only account for the nonsense preceding and supplementing the more serious and substantial section of his recent disquisition upon the hypothesis that there was too much disturbance of rhythmic cellular action in his intellectual quarter, due to conflicting impulses of cerebral force. Of course, this hypothesis may not be supported by what editor Meredith would term a priori evidence, but nevertheless it must serve as a probable explanation for the present, at least.

It is not true that Editor Spatz, of the Boyertown Democrat, lost his mustache in a gale of wind while roaming about the summit of a mountain in the vicinity of the borough aforesaid. No matter where, or how; he is holding up the Democrat in great shape, mustache or no mustache.

THE cruiser Pennsylvania, one of the most powerful of her kind in the United States Navy, was launched at Cramp's ship yard, Philadelphia, at 1.30 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Coral Quay, daughter of United States Senator M. S. Quay, christened the new warship as it left the ways.

THE world's records for both trotting and pacing went to smash within the past week. At Brighton Beach Dan Patch lowered Star Pointer's world's pacing record since 1898 from 1.54 to 1.59, and at Readville, Massa., Lou Dillon, the great trotting mare, went a mile in 2 minutes, and Cresceus the king, who had reigned for two years with a record of 2.02, was dethroned. Wonderful exhibitions of equine fleetness and endurance!

THERE is a Normal School scandal and more or less stench at Clarion, Pa., involving a Trustee, a State Senator and a Representative—and a sum of money claimed to have been accepted as a "rake off" in return for influence exerted in securing a liberal appropriation for a Normal School. State aid to the Normal Schools is an unjust and unfair appropriation of public funds. It is no wonder that the unrighteous procedure breeds scandals and scoundrels.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 20, 1903.

The expectation, general a week ago, that the President would call Congress in extra session in October, instead of waiting for the previously announced date, November 9, has been dissipated because of the inability of the members of the sub-committee on Finance to draft a financial bill for consideration at an early date. After spending several days considering this subject, at Senator Aldrich's home at Providence, the committee went to Oyster Bay and conferred with the President but failed to arrive at any agreement and dispersed without having accomplished the purpose for which it met. Mr. Roosevelt has told the members of the committee that, not only must they agree upon a measure they can all heartily support, but they must be able to assure him that their bill will receive at least reasonable support in the House and so difficult is this latter requirement that it is now regarded as likely that no financial measure will be considered before the regular session and it is even possible that none will be adopted then.

The facts are that Senator Aldrich desires to see enacted a measure substantially along the lines of his bill of last session whereby the Secretary of the Treasury will be authorized to accept state, county and municipal bonds as security for federal deposits. This would have the effect of releasing a large number of United States bonds which could then be used as collateral for increased circulation and would further establish the credit, beyond all question, of such securities as the Secretary might so accept. It would not, however, in any way provide for that elasticity of the circulating medium regarded by the President, and many others who have studied the subject, as essential. Other members of the sub-committee cannot be brought to regard the Aldrich scheme as altogether desirable and many members of the House, including the Speaker-to-be, are unequivocally opposed to it. Mr. Cannon has several times recently stated that he would not oppose the will of a majority of the House but it is noteworthy that every time he has made this statement he has added some reflection calculated to confirm the opposition of a majority of his colleagues.

Under the circumstances, financial legislation is likely to cut an important part in the proceedings of the next Congress and interest will largely center in the Senate Finance committee. There are three vacancies in that committee, one of which has already been accorded to Senator Bailey of Texas. The other democratic vacancy will doubtless go to Senator Gorman but there will be a struggle for the republican seat with the two senators from Indiana as the contestants. Senator Bailey supports the Aldrich idea but Senators Teller, Daniels, the rank democratic member, and Money will all oppose it and there is promise of some lively sessions this winter. Of course if Beveridge gets the coveted seat he will obey the mandates of the chairman, but if Fairbanks is the prize-winner, he, having possibly some presidential aspirations, is likely to be more independent. The Aldrich bill has doubtless a difficult road before it.

Officials of the War Department are enjoying a good laugh at the expense of Senator Platt of New York, this week. The bureau of Insular Affairs has 5,000,000 pesos to ship to Manila, via San Francisco, and bids for carrying this sum were asked from the express companies. Of course Senator Platt was quite certain that his company would secure the contract and it put in its bid at several thousand dollars. This sum seemed exorbitant to Acting Chief Pepperman and he then consulted the Postmaster General with the result that an arrangement was effected whereby the pesos will be shipped as registered mail, at the ounce rate, plus the 8 cent registry fee for each four pounds. By this means, a material saving will be made to the Philippine government and, moreover, all that is paid out for transportation will come back to the government of the

United States as postal revenue. What Mr. Platt said when he learned of this scheme will not bear repetition, and the Senator from New York declares he will have the registry law repealed.

Further news from Bogota is being anxiously awaited, as the last received was to the effect that the Panama canal treaty had been rejected by the Senate. At first it was assumed that this meant the final defeat of the treaty, but on reflection it was recalled that the House and Senate have, in Colombia, coordinate powers when it comes to accepting or rejecting a treaty and it is therefore, regarded as possible that the Senate may eventually reconsider its vote. If the treaty comes back materially amended or if it becomes necessary to take the Nicaragua route, it is believed, the entire canal project will be set back several years.

An interesting situation has developed in the Postoffice Department as a result of the current investigation. It is learned that Postmaster General Payne is determined to get rid of First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne whom Mr. Payne charges with having given information to the newspapers which greatly enlarged the scope of the investigation and which reflected on Payne and his original methods of conducting the investigation. This charge is very largely a figment of an imagination made unduly sensitive because of public criticism, due entirely to Payne's own errors. Had it not been for Wynne would never have been more than a perfunctory investigation, it is true. It was Wynne who impressed upon the President the necessity of a sweep investigation. Nevertheless, Wynne has always been loyal to his chief and only Payne's lack of discernment and his persistence in giving credence to Machen, Beavers, Rand and that ilk, against Wynne's advice, resulted in his severe criticism by the public press. Under these circumstances it is not believed likely that President Roosevelt will pay much attention to his Postmaster General's petitions for Wynne's removal.

CHANGE IN FARM LABOR.

FEWER HANDS NOW REQUIRED, BUT THEY ARE HARDER TO GET.

About twenty or twenty-five years ago, when binding reapers were first introduced in this State, says the Baltimore Sun, there was great dissatisfaction among farm laborers. In some places there were threats to destroy them, because it was supposed that they would deprive a large number of laborers of their most profitable work, namely, in the harvest field. Some years before that time the old-fashioned reaper had displaced the "cradle," just as the cradle had displaced the sickle, and each had reduced the number of laborers. One does not have to be very old to remember the gang of harvesters cutting wheat with cradles, each cradle followed by a man with a rake to gather the wheat to be bound in sheaves. Then came the boys gathering the sheaves in piles, and after them men making the shocks. Off in the distance was the man running a horse rake to glean the heads which were dropped, and flitting about was the boy with a pail of ice water. Tucked away in a convenient shock was usually a little brown jug, which the foreman carried around at stated intervals. On the average wheat farm the gang in the harvest field would number from a dozen to twenty men and boys, and the scene was most animated. The harvest field of the present day is entirely different. All noise and jollity and animation have disappeared. The little brown jug has gone with the rest. The harvesters are now reduced to three or four men, one to drive the horses, one to sit on the machine and one or two to shock, and the cost of harvesting has been reduced in almost the same proportion as the harvesters have been reduced.

The change in threshing the grain has been almost as marked. For a crop of 2000 bushels it would take twenty men a week or ten days to do the work of threshing, and the grain had to be fanned. Now half as many men can do the work in two days and a half. It was far

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A CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS.
In Norway, says the Los Angeles Times, drunkenness is punished by imprisonment. As soon as a man is incarcerated the delinquent has a loaf and wine morning and evening. The bread is served in a wooden bowl full of wine, in which it has been soaked for an hour. The first day the drunkard swallows his allowance willingly enough. The second day it is less pleasant. At the end of eight or ten days prisoners have been known to abstain altogether from the food thus pitilessly presented. This course of treatment finished, the drunkard, except in rare instances, is radically cured.
Boy Cured of Colic After Physician's Treatment Had Failed.
My boy when four years old was taken with colic and cramps in his stomach. I sent for the doctor and he injected morphine, but the child kept getting worse. I then gave him half a teaspoonful of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and in half an hour he was asleep, and soon recovered.—F. L. Wilkins, Shell Lake, Wis.
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